

IN THE CLAIMS

1-59 (canceled)

60. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a signal containing a code vector;
decoding the code vector, wherein the decoding
includes deriving a set of ~~received-signal~~ values
corresponding to the code vector; and,
generating a reliability factor based upon a
difference between at least two of the ~~received-signal~~
values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of
reliability of the decoding.

61. (previously presented) The method of
claim 60 further comprising controlling an equalizer in
accordance with the reliability factor.

62. (currently amended) The method of claim
60 wherein one of the two received signal values is a
largest of the ~~received-signal~~ values.

63. (canceled)

64. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the two ~~received-signal~~ values comprise a largest and a next largest of the ~~received-signal~~ values.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising controlling an equalizer in accordance with the reliability factor.

66. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a signal containing a code vector;
decoding the code vector, wherein the decoding includes deriving a set of ~~received-signal~~ values corresponding to the code vector; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the ~~received-signal~~ values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of reliability of the decoding, and wherein the generating of a reliability factor based upon at least one of the ~~received-signal~~ values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a comparison of the one ~~received-signal~~ value to a threshold.

67. (currently amended) The method of claim 66 wherein the one ~~received-signal~~ value is a largest one of the ~~received-signal~~ values.

68. (currently amended) The method of claim 66 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon a comparison of the one ~~received-signal~~ value to a threshold comprises generating the reliability factor only if the one ~~received-signal~~ value is greater than the threshold.

69. (currently amended) The method of claim 66 wherein the reliability factor that is generated is dependent upon the magnitude of the one ~~received-signal~~ value.

70. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the ~~received-signal~~ values are correlation peaks.

71. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating of a reliability factor based upon a difference between at least two of the ~~received-signal~~ values comprises generating a reliability factor

based upon a difference between the squares of the two
~~received-signal~~ values.

72. (currently amended) The method of claim
60 wherein the generating of a reliability factor based
upon a difference between at least two of the ~~received~~
~~signal~~ values comprises generating a reliability factor
based upon a difference between a square of a largest and
a square of a next largest of the ~~received-signal~~ values.

73. (previously presented) A method
comprising:
receiving a signal containing a code vector;
decoding the received code vector, wherein the
decoding includes correlating the received code vector
with a plurality of reference code vectors so as to
produce a plurality of values corresponding to each of
the reference code vectors, and wherein the values
correspond to an amount of correlation between the
received code vector and the reference code vectors; and,
generating a reliability factor based upon at
least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor
is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a largest of the values.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a largest and a next largest of the values.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor

comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.

79. (previously presented) A method comprising:
receiving a signal containing a code vector;
deriving a plurality of sets of values corresponding to the code vector, wherein one of the sets contains a value that is largest;
decoding the code vector according to the set of values containing the largest value; and,
generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on the largest value.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a the largest value and a next largest value.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.